

Senate Bill 282

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Smith of the 52nd, Schaefer of the 50th, Thomas of the 54th, Hamrick of the 30th and others

AS PASSED

AN ACT

To amend Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the state highway system, so as to provide for the creation of alternative tourism routes; to provide for the designation of such routes; to provide for the construction and maintenance of welcome centers on such routes; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the state highway system, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"32-4-24.

(a) The board shall designate as alternative tourism routes roads that are a part of the state highway system that traverse the state and pass through or in close proximity to historic sites or tourist attractions in the state. Interstate highways that traverse the state shall not be eligible for designation as an alternative tourism route. The initial alternative tourism routes shall be U. S. Highway 27 and U. S. Highway 441.

(b) The board shall consult with the Department of Economic Development, county governing authorities, and historical sites and tourist attractions located in this state in the selection of additional alternative tourism routes. The Department of Economic Development shall promote such routes and sites and attractions along such routes to the motoring public.

(c) Subject to the appropriation process, the department may within five years of the designation of an alternative tourism route construct within 20 miles of the state line on each end of such route a welcome center. Subject to the appropriation process, if the department decides to construct such a center, it shall negotiate and contract with the local governing authorities where the welcome center is located for the maintenance and operation of such center."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.